

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01599 311358Z

43

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-02 FBIE-00 JUSE-00

PRS-01 SY-02 MC-02 RSR-01 /048 W

----- 107819

O 311309Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1599

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1599

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, US

SUBJ: SOGHOIAN ARREST

REF: LUSAKA 1582

1. PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA PHONED CHARGE THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN AND PERPLEXITY OVER SOGHOIAN ARREST, RUETERS VERSION OF WHICH CARRIED TODAY IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL. HE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY REPORT US GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY HAD ASKED HIGH BAIL BECAUSE OF SOGHOIAN'S ACCESS TO "VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED AMOUNTS OF CASH." SINCE SOGHOIAN A GRZ EMPLOYEE, THIS STRONGLY IMPLIED ZAMBIA ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE. MOREOVER, THER NO MYSTERY ABOUT ZAMBIAN EMBASSY WAREHOUSE IN MARYLAND; IT OPENLY ACQUIRED AND USED BY GRZ. CHONA HIMSELF HAD IN PAST SUPERVISED HANDLING AND SHIPPING OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS SECURED BY SOGHOIAN FOR GRZ USE AND IT ALL PROPERLY DOCUMENTED, LEGALLY EXPORTABLE, AND OPENLY HANDLED. QUITE DISTURBING AS WELL WAS BRINGING IN OF NAME OF GOVERNMENT MINISTER, MILNER, WITH ALLEGATION HE HAD EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN SOGHOIAN MIGHT BE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. THE WAY THE MATTER WAS WORKING OUT, ZAMBIA WAS BEING PUT IN A VERY BAD LIGHT.

2. CHONA SAID HE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECT ON OUR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01599 311358Z

RELATIONS. HE ALREADY UPSET BY WHAT HE CONSIDERED "SURPRISING"

AND "UNFAIR" THINGS SAID TO HIM IN WASHINGTON ABOUT MAY 15 ZAMBEZI RIVER SHOOTING OF AMCIT CROTHERS (STATE 153650). SINCE IT HIS JOB TO TRY IMPROVE RELATIONS, HE HAD NOT REPORTED WASHINGTON DISCUSSION OF MAY 15 INCIDENT TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA, WHO, "LIKE ANY PRESIDENT," WOULD HAVE BEN "HOPPING MAD." NOW SOGHOIAN AFFAIR AND ITS HANDLING HAD PLACED ADDITIONAL STRAIN ON RELATIONS.

3. CHONA EXPLAINED SOGHOIAN HAD DONE A BRILLIANT JOB OF INSTALLING HIGHLY EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR GRZ WITH EXCELLENT US EQUIPMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, "WE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE USING US EQUIPMENT ANY MORE." WHEN "THE MINISTERS" LEARN OF WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE, THEY WILL SAY "FORGET THEM" AND SEEK WAHT GRZ NEEDS ELSEWHERE.

4. IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR CHARGE TO GET A WORD IN, BUT HE EVENTUALLY ABLE SAY PUBLIC HANDLING OF ARREST HAD BEEN UNFORTUNATE, USG EQUALLY CONCERNED THERE BE NO ADVERSE REFLECTION ON ZAMBIA, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAD PROMISED COOPERATE TO THIS END. ZAMBIA NOT BEING CHARGED. FBI BELIEVES IT HAS EVIDENCE THAT AMCIT HAS BROKEN US LAW; HE MAY HAVE EXCEEDED INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN HIM BY GRZ AND COMMITTED ILLEGAL ACTS, BUT THERE NO INTENTION SUGGEST GRZ RESPONSIBLE. CHARGE PROPOSED MEETING WITH CHONA AT ANY TIME CONVENIENT TO LATTER WHO SAID HE WOULD CALL BACK TO SET TIME THIS AFTERNOON AFTER HE HAD REPORTED LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SOGHOIAN AFFAIR TO PRESIDENT. ADDED GRZ WOULD BE ISSUING STATEMENT, PROBABLY TODAY.

5. HAVE CEASED EFFORTS CONTACT MILNER. WHEN PAO TOLD HIM AT PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING ON REVISION OF MINE TAKE-OVER AGREEMENTS (SEPTELS) CHARGE WOULD APPRECIATE WORD WITH HIM, MILNER ASKED IF IT ABOUT "WASHINGTON INCIDENT" AND SAID IT WOULD BE "IMPOSSIBLE FOR A MONTH". MORE IMPORTANT IS APPARENT DECISION BY MILNER TO COVER AND DENY CONVERSATIONS HE HAD WITH US RE SOGHOIAN APRIL 5, JULY 12 AND 25. THIS SUGGESTS HE HAD FAILED TO CONVEY HIS CONCERNS ABOUT SOGHOIAN TO OTHERS WHO PERHPAS THEREFORE REMAINED IN IGNORANCE, UNTIL AUGUST 28 ARREST, SOGHOIAN MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. EXPECT THERE LITTLE USE IN INSISTING TO ZAMBIANS THAT MILNER DID EXPRESS CONCERN SOGHOIAN MIGHT BE INVOLVED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 01599 311358Z

IN SOME ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.NELSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LUSAKA01599
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS NELSON
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973083/aaaaabtztel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: LUSAKA 1582
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOGHOIAN ARREST
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005